

a.) Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-41 (Cancelled).

42. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film which is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tableting pressure greater than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied to said die and pair of punches by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and
spraying said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

44. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material and is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tableting pressure greater than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied to said die and pair of punches by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and
spraying said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 42 to 45, wherein said diluting agent is granular.

47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 44 or 45, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

53. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to any one of claims 42-45.

Claims 54-62 (Cancelled).

63. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film which is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tableting pressure greater than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

64. (Currently Amended) A method for maintaining a function of a compressed tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material and is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tableting pressure great than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tableting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tableting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at a tableting pressure of 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm², wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 63, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix prevents bitter taste.

70. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 64, wherein said base matrix enhances sustained release.

Claim 71 (Cancelled).

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to either of claims 63 or 64, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied to said die and pair of punches by the steps comprising;

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and
spraying said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

73. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 46.

74. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 47.

75. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 48.

76. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 49.

77. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 50.

78. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 51.

79. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 52.

80. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule bearing a coating film which is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tableting pressure greater than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tabletting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at tabletting pressure from 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm² without destroying said a coating film, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied to said die and pair of punches by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punches in a spray chamber, and spraying said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt onto the surfaces of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

82. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tablet which comprises (i) a granule containing an active substance, said granule comprising a base matrix which is a water-insoluble or hydrophobic high molecular material and is destroyed when a molding material comprising said granule is compressed at tabletting pressure

greater than 1.3 ton/cm², (ii) a diluting agent and (iii) stearic acid or a stearic acid metal salt as a lubricant, comprising the steps of:

preparing a molding material by uniformly mixing said granule with the diluting agent, said molding material not containing any stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt;

selecting a tabletting machine comprising a die and a pair of punches in which said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied only on surfaces of said die and said punches; and

operating said tabletting machine to press said molding material and produce compressed tablets of said molding material at tabletting pressure from 0.7 to 1.3 ton/cm² without damaging a function of the contained matrix, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is provided only on a surface thereof and in an amount from 0.0001 to 0.2 weight percent per tablet.

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 82, wherein said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt is applied to said and pair of punches by the steps comprising:

housing said die and pair of punch in a spray chamber, and spraying said stearic acid or stearic acid metal salt onto the surface of said die and pair of punches utilizing pulsating vibration air.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 80 to 83, wherein said diluting agent is granular.

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80 or 81, wherein said coating film enhances release in intestine.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80 or 81, wherein said coating film prevents bitter taste.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 80 or 81, wherein said coating film enhances sustained release.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 82 or 83, wherein said base matrix enhances release in intestine.

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 82 or 83, wherein said matrix prevents bitter taste.

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 82 or 83, wherein said matrix enhances sustained release.

91. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to any one of claims 80 to 83.

92. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 84.

93. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 85.

94. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 86.

95. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 87.

96. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 88.

97. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 89.

98. (Previously Presented) A compressed lubricated tablet produced by the process according to claim 90.

99. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said molding material comprises same amount of said granule and said diluting agent.

100. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein said molding material comprises same amount of said granule and said diluting agent.

101. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein said molding material is dry.

102. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 84, wherein
said molding material is dry.